

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for discussing the Office Action with the undersigned on August 8, 2006.

The Restriction Requirement between method and article claims, Applicants' election of the latter, and the finality of the Restriction Requirement are acknowledged. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended. The claims before the Examiner for consideration are Claims 6-8.

The requirement for a new Title is acknowledged. The Examiner's helpful suggestion has been followed, but there is no mention of a method because the claims directed thereto are nonelected.

The rejection of Claim 7 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 is believed overcome by the amendment to the claim stating that the curvature is a measure of the maximum distance between a line passing through two points one meter apart on the reference edge of the tape and the reference edge. This definition is taken from the description in the specification at page 6, line 7 to page 7, line 4, and Fig. 1. That drawing shows a plane view; see page 6, lines 10-11. Should the Examiner prefer other language, he is asked to contact the undersigned.

The rejection of Claims 6-8 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 is believed overcome by the change to Claim 6. The Examiner had stated that terms such as "a reference side edge" and "the other side" were not adequately defined in the specification and that a tape has at least six edges/sides. Claim 6 now calls for a linear-recording magnetic tape comprising a top face, a bottom face, a side edge on a reference side edge, and a side edge on the other side, the side edges being along the longitudinal direction of the tape, the side edge on the reference side edge being the edge from which positions of tracks in the width direction of the tape are determined by a distance, wherein the side edge of the reference side is shorter in length than that on the other side. The specification at page 4, lines 5-11

provides support for the indication that the side edge of the reference edge side is the edge from which positions of tracks in the width direction of the tape are determined by a distance. Again, should the Examiner, after consideration of the amended claims and the remarks herein, believe that other language is more appropriate, he is asked to contact the undersigned.

The rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. §102(f) as anticipated by general knowledge in the art, if applied to the claim as amended, is respectfully traversed. The claim has been changed as discussed above and does not read upon "the very first magnetic tape". The rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Hattori et al. '565 is also respectfully traversed. The tape described in the reference is in the form of conventional recording tape and does not have the features recited in Claim 6. The rejection should be withdrawn.

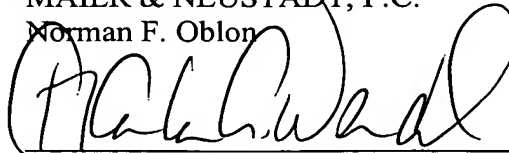
The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging receipt of a certified copy of the priority document and for listing references submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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